

REMARKS

In the September 8, 2004 Office Action, claim 26 is objected to and claims 18-26 stand rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections are made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the September 8, 2004 Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 18 and 26 as indicated above. Thus, claims 18 and 26 are pending, with claim 18 being the only independent claim. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Interview Summary

On October 26, 2004, the undersigned conducted a personal interview with Examiner Emmanuel M. Marcelo, who is in charge of the above-identified patent application. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Marcelo for the opportunity to discuss the above-identified patent application.

During the interview, the rejection in view of the Takeuchi patent was discussed. More specifically, it was pointed out that the Takeuchi patent shows elements 6 in Figures 3, 5, and 7. The Takeuchi patent does not disclose the weight difference between the elements 6.

Claim Objection

On page 2 of the Office Action, claim 26 is objected to for being misnumbered as claim "25." In response, Applicants have renumbered the misnumbered claim 25 as claim 26. Applicants believe that claim 26 now complies with 37 C.F.R. 1.126, and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 18-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,193,762 to Takeuchi ("Takeuchi patent"). In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 18 as mentioned above.

More specifically, independent claim 18 as amended above now clearly requires that the plurality of second covers be formed such that the second cover that is attached to the second rotor arm is replaceable with any other one of the plurality of second covers. Clearly, this arrangement is *not* disclosed or suggested by the Takeuchi patent or any other prior art of record.

Int-
Summary
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